

6-15-1875

## Letter from Anne Whitney, Paris, France, to Sarah Whitney, 1875 June 15

Anne Whitney

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### Recommended Citation

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216<sup>th</sup> - 217.

Paris - June 15. Tuesday.

The loss of that letter dear Sarah seems to have made a constantly sliding gap extending the intervals between succeeding reports - but - what can a <sup>t</sup>ragic expect? It is a fortnight since it came here - My last letter post marked 13<sup>th</sup> I answered a week & more ago. I recapitulate - so that if anything is lost - we may the better understand - I have been employing the time going up & down this treasure-house of the spoils of nations - Mrs. as said Mr. Whitwell last Evng. if the Germans had treated the French, as the French ~~at the~~ people whom they have conquered - Paris wd have had a good deal less to begin her work of reconstruction on. The sole devastation committed here Paris has to thank her own savages for - I went yesterday to the Palais de Justice a very ancient building used for various municipal purposes



The Conciergerie a part of it  
formerly used as a prison - where  
Marie Antoinette was confined ~~was~~  
partly destroyed by the Communists  
& is now repairing - so that I could  
not see it - The Chamber in wh.  
she was with all its relics was  
burned. I asked Eugene our Chamber  
boy (of 40 years & more) why the  
Court-house was attacked. & he  
said it was because the Commun-  
ists were coquins (rogues) - mauvais  
sujets - & wanted to do away with  
Courts, juries, & all checks to  
license. It is a sensation of  
ultra horror to feel how near the  
most sacred things - things that  
millenium nor eternity would give  
again - came to demolition. I  
strolled in among the ruins which  
are within a dozen yards of  
Sainte Chapelle - & my thinking  
the gem of all architecture -  
Anything so perfect it seems  
impossible that a fallible human  
brain shd. conceive. Superstition  
nothing else - held the rascals  
back from their crime. Again  
the Louvre joined the Tuilleries  
at both ends. & The latter so

you know is a lion of ruins. There  
is no danger like oppression - of  
only the safety <sup>only</sup> of the tyrant were  
involved when the mine explodes!

The French of course hate the  
Russians. but the cause of humanity  
made a great stride when the  
German ~~Russians~~ beat the French men.  
I told Eugene that the best revenge  
to take of the Russian wd be to  
establish the French Republic -  
(make firm - i.e.) he said - if the  
republic lasted 4 years - the ruin  
of Prussia was assured. "La Prusse  
est perdue" - but Eugene meant  
one thing & I another. He means  
I suppose, that unity will give  
the French ascendancy again in  
a war. I hope not.

You might suppose by this  
report of my conversation with  
the Chamber boy - that I had  
made not a little progress in  
this polite tongue & was capable  
of giving lessons to all & sundry who  
might apply. The fact is that  
I shd not care to be overheard by  
the Portonne. I like to talk with  
people of quick parts who know  
how to bridge & syntactic gulfs.



& am not averse to a paragon  
whose amiability is of a broader  
stripe than his culture. [4]

16<sup>th</sup> June. Your letter of the  
23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> reached me this  
AM. Nothing cd. neutralize the  
delight - with wh. I read of Retros  
97 lbs. & better health - & ease  
of the general well-being. But -  
the horrible intimation about  
Abraham Jackson sent me at  
once to Morris's where I read  
over the papers as for back co.  
the 30 May. the oldest obtainable  
of the wherefore of this man's  
life & what he got of out of it -  
for pleasure or profit - beyond the  
material & material occupation it  
gave him there is no hint. Simply  
I read that he is charged with  
swindling & forging & committed to jail.  
Mr. Whelan when I met them  
(at Morris's) says that Dr Jackson's  
family is ruined by his operations.  
Dr J. himself being a permanent  
incapable & shut up in the asylum.  
I never heard anything so miserable.  
Accepting the opinion of those who  
knew him I should as soon have  
expected the ink in my pen to explode  
as this revelation. Miss Ireland. yes.  
I fear it will affect her. The  
house she is in will probably be sold.



57 I think he had the house in trust  
for some relatives - Good heavens!  
& he was such a kind, considerate  
landlord - making easy terms & keep-  
ing the house in perfect repair!  
Where shall we arrive at next  
on this phenomenal sea? It will  
be a terrible blow for Ireland - She  
traded him to any extent - but he  
expected had nothing to do with  
him financially & capt as treat

I heard other American news  
of no happy nature - from the  
papers - fires - murders - towns  
generally - I hasten the day of  
no more wooden houses - & of specie  
payments!

I shd. have told you in my last  
that the pho<sup>to</sup> came in good order -  
it was not injured in the descending.  
I do not know whether I spoke  
of Menie's health - If I didn't  
it was because her appearance  
gave no cause for thinking of it -  
She certainly seemed entirely well.

Katy has been needlessly troubled  
I shd. like to know where she  
is now - & if the new com-  
panion proved to be the right  
person - Al - While she was  
in Florence was busy hunting



about for a companion &  
preparing for her journey  
& I did not see much of her,  
as I have liked -

That I did not say anything  
of our sea life is due to the  
fact that as soon as one  
is off ship one is a whole  
hemisphere away from sea  
& sea life - They are off  
in the stone age or the  
water age wh. is further still.  
Thank Heaven! - The Capt.  
is a good safe Capt. I believe.  
I should recommend him very  
cordially in this respect  
& what more does one want?

The weather in Paris  
is worth mentioning - I think  
it abominable - It is said  
the Astronomers say it is  
owing to some performances  
among the planets... Windy  
freaky - stormy - & a part  
of the time cold - it may  
be originating but is not at.

tractive.

You spoke of Mr. Rogers  
as being very ill in one of your letters.  
but have not spoken of him  
since. I inferred that from what  
you said that he was not likely  
to recover. I hope he is not des-  
tined to a life of protracted suf-  
fering. Mrs. Bingham will have  
arrived by this - Give her cordial  
greetings & welcome from me -  
I trust that there being 3 of you  
you will have more liberty to  
fly abroad. & more social  
cheer - I trust you see Aunt  
Sue often. Mother who seems  
to be as vigorous as any of you will  
now that the good weather has  
come be walking down there. As  
I hope -

Ade will write to Miss  
Ireland - to learn if any change is  
to be made at her house - If she  
is obliged to leave it - The furniture  
there will have to be moved & stored.  
I hope she will be able to stay -

I am sorry about the Advertiser.  
There is little doubt at present that  
with the exception of a month or 6  
weeks in the summer months - I shall



